

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. PG Pub. No. 2001/0002906 to Rune ("Rune") in view of KPA 10-1999-0025728 to Jang *et al.* ("Jang"). Applicants traverse this rejection.

The combination of Rune and Jang does not disclose or suggest at least detecting an amount of slot usage according to the destination and selecting a temporary master device according to the amount of slot usage, as set forth in claim 1. The Examiner concedes that Rune does not specifically teach such features. Jang does not cure the deficiencies of Rune.

As disclosed by Jang, "[t]he third step of a provisional master push server continuously transmits the message Naming Alt with the provisional slave push server according to the monitoring result of the second step in the message queue" (Abstract). The object of Jang is accomplished by, *inter alia*, "watching of the message queue in which the provisional master push server is generated as the provisional slave push server in the message queue" (paragraph 14). In other words, Jang ***monitors a message queue*** in order to select a master push server. On the other hand, as claimed by Applicants, a master device is determined according to the ***amount of slot usage***.

Since different protocols may be used to assign messages in a message queue to transmission slots and since Jang does not correlate its message queue to slot usage, Jang does not disclose or suggest detecting an amount of slot usage according to the destination and selecting a temporary master device according to the amount of slot usage, as set forth in claim 1. Even if one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made had been motivated

to combine the references, the combined references would still not result in the features claimed by Applicants. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Rune and Jang. Claims 2-6, which depend from claim 1, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence.

Claims 7, 10 and 13 contain features similar to the features recited in claim 1 and are therefore patentable for similar reasons. Claims 8, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15, which depend from one of claims 7, 10 and 13, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence.

Allowable Subject Matter

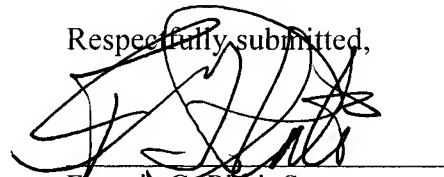
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 16-18 are allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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